

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 33-41 and 52 are pending. However, only claims 33-41 were indicated as pending in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that claim 52 be also examined in the present application.

Double Patenting

Claims 33-41 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 33, 43-48 and 50 of U.S. Patent No. 6,027,890.

To facilitate allowance and without acquiescing to the above rejection in the Office Action, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer with respect to the '890 patent. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this ground of rejection has been overcome. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Potentially Related Applications

Applicants respectfully submit that two other applications (U.S. Patent Applications No. 10/622,182 and No. 10/465,524) pending with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may be related to the present application. These two applications are discussed in more detailed below.

Patent Application No. 10/622,182 is a divisional of Patent Application No. 09/855,999 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,623,928), which is continuation of Patent Application No. 08/898,180 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,312,893), which is a continuation-in-part of Patent Application No. 08/786,835 (now abandoned). No Office Actions have issued in the '182 application. In the '999 application, one Office Action issued during its prosecution. Two Office Actions issued during the prosecution of the '180 application. In the '835 application, one Office Action issued before this application was expressly abandoned in favor of the '180 application. Copies of the above-noted Office Actions are enclosed.

Application No. 10/000,467
Reply dated December 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003

Patent Application No. 10/465,524 is a continuation of Patent Application No. 08/898,564 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,613,508), which is a continuation-in-part of Patent Application No. 08/786,834 (now abandoned). No Office Actions have issued in the '524 application. In the '564 application, four Office Actions issued during its prosecution, copies of which are enclosed. In the '834 application, one Office Action issued before this application was expressly abandoned in favor of the '564 application. A copy of the Office Action in the '834 application is enclosed.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Applicants believe that all of the claims remaining in the application are now allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



Qing Lin, Ph.D.
Registration No. 53,937

Enclosures:

Postcard

Office Action dated December 9, 2002 (USAN 09/855,999)
Office Action dated October 1, 1998 (USAN 08/898,180)
Office Action dated August 13, 1999 (USAN 08/898,180)
Office Action dated November 3, 1997 (USAN 08/786,835)
Office Action dated February 17, 1999 (USAN 08/898,564)
Office Action dated November 9, 1999 (USAN 08/898,564)
Office Action dated April 11, 2001 (USAN 08/898,564)
Office Action dated November 27, 2002 (USAN 08/898,564)
Office Action dated November 3, 1997 (USAN 08/786,834)

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031
420286v1.doc